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International Application No. PCT/GB2004/005211

National Stage Preliminary Amendment

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Nigel Paul Schofield Attorney Docket No.: M03B138

International Application No. PCT/GB2004/005211 Group Art Unit:

International Application Filing Date: December 8, 2004

National Application Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Title: VACUUM PUMPING ARRANGEMENT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT 37 C.F.R. § 1.115

Dear Sir:

Prior to examining the above-identified application, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 5.

Remarks begin on page 10.